



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

# News Release

August 17, 2005

## **OCDETF STRIKE FORCE SMASHES HEROIN SMUGGLING RING IN THE BRONX** ***New York Agents seize over \$6 million of heroin, seven firearms and \$250,000 in cash***

NEW YORK, NY – Salvatore Dalessandro, Acting Special Agent-in-Charge of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement New York office, and John Gilbride, Special Agent-in-Charge of the US Drug Enforcement Administration in New York, announced the dismantlement of a heroin manufacturing and distribution organization based in the Bronx, New York. The announcement was made at a DEA press conference.

On August 15, 2005, members of the New York DEA Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Strike Force, comprised of the DEA, ICE, the NY Police Department, the New York State Police, FBI and the IRS, raided a house located at 31-66 Fenton Avenue in the Bronx. Inside the house, officers located a heroin manufacturing “mill” and seized more than \$6 million worth of heroin, 150 grinders used to manufacture heroin for retail sale, seven firearms, two money counting machines and approximately \$250,000 in cash. Thirteen members of the criminal organization who were manufacturing and packaging the heroin at the time of the raid were arrested.

Dalessandro remarked, “This investigation demonstrates the cooperation between law enforcement agencies and builds upon each agency's authorities. The OCDETF task force used these authorities to dismantle another drug trafficking organization that threatened the safety of our homeland and our children.”

Each of the 13 defendants arrested has been charged with federal narcotics trafficking and firearms offenses. If convicted, the defendants face a maximum sentence of life imprisonment and a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years imprisonment on the narcotics trafficking and firearms charges. The defendants have been presented for arraignment in Manhattan federal court.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*